

JOHN HANSON, 15

"President of the United States in
Congress Assembled,"

1781-1782.



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*"PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN
CONGRESS ASSEMBLED,"*

1781-1782.

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Baltimore, Md.

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The Legislature of 1898 selected Charles Carroll of Carrollton and John Hanson, President of the Continental Congress, as being entitled by reason of their eminent services to be commemorated in bronze or marble in the Statuary Hall in the Capitol at Washington.

Under Chapter 311, Laws of Maryland, 1898, a Commission was appointed to carry out the provisions of said Chapter. This Commission, after patient investigation, has awarded the contract for both statues to Mr. Richard E. Brooks, of Massachusetts.



John Hanson

BORN 1715.

DIED 1783.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AT PHILADELPHIA, 1781-1782.

[FROM PORTRAIT IN POSSESSION OF DOUGLAS H. THOMAS, BALTIMORE.]

JOHN HANSON,

OF MARYLAND.

The Hansons, originally of Kent County, Md., were one of the oldest and most influential families in the Province. John Hanson was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Hanson, of Charles County, Md., and was born in 1715. His family was the leading one in the County, and being men of wealth and high social standing, he was thoroughly educated.

Long before the American Revolution John Hanson took an active part in the transactions of the Province, and was an influential person in the administration of Provincial affairs. He represented Charles County in the Lower House of Assembly in the years 1757, '58, '61, '63, '65, '66, '67, '68 and '73, and in the political discussions which took place during these exciting years in relation to the oppressions of the Mother Country, John Hanson took a leading and distinguished part, and soon ranked with the Chases, the Tilghmans, and the Carrolls in the distinguished regard of his fellow-citizens. Out of the disputes and discussions which took place between the two Houses of Assembly from 1757 to 1768, parties were formed, and the Lower House of Assembly being composed of the representatives of the people in the Province, drew to its body the ablest men in Maryland. It was upon this political arena many a mind was taught the use of weapons which were afterwards wielded with irresistible power upon a broader field.

To obtain redress for their grievances against the British Nation, the Colonists, in 1769, adopted a non-importation system. John Hanson was one of the strongest advocates of this measure, and when the "Maryland Associations" were organizing, he was among the first to sign the agreement binding himself "by the sacred ties of honor and reputation, neither to import or purchase any article then taxed, or which should thereafter be taxed by Parliament for the purpose of revenue."

In October following their patriotism was put to the test. Several packages of goods were landed in Charles County contrary to the terms of the non-importation association, and openly without fear of detection or punishment, the associators of the County, under the leadership of Hanson, compelled the owners to re-ship the goods back to England.

From the close of the French and Indian War, Frederick County assumed importance as a region of uncommon productiveness, and attracted a large number of prominent persons from other portions of the Province, and Pennsylvania, and became a favorite section with emigrants from Germany, Switzerland, and Great Britain. Among those who repaired thither, in 1773, was John Hanson, and under his brilliant leadership the people became practically a unit in their devotion to the principals of the Revolution. Being a hardy, independent race, they were naturally impatient under the oppressive legislation of the British Government, and though peaceable by nature, and slow to violence, were tenacious of their rights and determined to assert them at all hazards.

John Hanson's learning and ability had preceded him to his new home, and almost immediately upon his arrival in Frederick his counsel was sought by the people and his associates, as being the wisest and safest they could obtain. His honesty inspired universal respect and confidence, and his singularly vigorous and well-balanced mind made him a leader among men.

The passage of the "Boston Port Bill," in 1774, which interdicted all commercial intercourse with Boston, roused the people of Maryland and they made common cause with Massachusetts. At a meeting of the Citizens of Frederick, held at the Court-house on the 20th of June, John Hanson presided. At this meeting he and his son Alexander Contee Hanson, and Philip Thomas were appointed delegates to the "General Congress at Annapolis." They were also selected as members of the "Committee of Observation to receive and answer all letters, and in any emergency to call a general meeting."

Upon the organization of the Committee of Observation John Hanson was made Chairman, and continued to serve in this capacity during its existence, or until it was abolished by the

establishment of the State Government. Shortly after he assumed the duties of his office, John Hanson, Chairman, sent two hundred pounds sterling (£200) for the relief of the poor of Boston, which was kindly acknowledged by Samuel Adams of that city.

"The General Congress," or Convention of Maryland, assembled at Annapolis on the 22d of June, 1774, and adjourned on the 25th. John Hanson was present as a Delegate from Frederick County, and assisted in the adoption of a series of non-importation resolutions of the strongest character.

On the 18th of November, 1774, the citizens of Frederick held another public meeting and appointed new committees. John Hanson was chosen a member of the "Committee to Represent the County to carry into Execution the Association agreed on by the American Continental Congress," and he was also made a member of the "Committee of Correspondence for the County."

At another meeting of the citizens of Frederick County, held at the Court-house, on the 24th of January, 1775, John Hanson was again made Chairman. He was also chosen a member of the Committee of Correspondence, with full powers to carry the resolves of the American Congress and of the Provincial Convention into effect. He was also appointed a Delegate to represent the County in the Provincial Convention, to be held at Annapolis in October following, and continued as a member of the Committee of Correspondence. On the 21st of June, 1775, he was elected by the Committee of Observation Treasurer of Frederick County.

Under the leadership of John Hanson, and his patriotic associates, Frederick County, in 1775, was all vigilance and activity. They had set on foot manufactories for the production of gunpowder, arms, ammunition and army equipment of every sort, and every person capable of bearing arms was enrolled preparatory for the threatened conflict. While these preparations were being made the blow was struck at Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June, 1775, and from this time onward the patriots of Frederick never ceased in their efforts for freedom until independence was assured.

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation of Frederick County, held June 21st, 1775, John Hanson, Chairman, it was

“Resolved, That the collectors of money for the purchase of arms and ammunition, shall severally pay to the Committee of Correspondence all sums already received, who shall pay over the same to John Hanson, who is appointed Treasurer for the County.”

At the same meeting John Hanson was appointed a Committee “to inspect and review the several companies, and to give recommendatory certificates to the several officers, to be carried by them to the Congress.”

At a meeting of the Committee of Correspondence, held in the Court-house at Frederick, on the 21st of June, 1775, a letter which John Hanson had received from the Maryland Delegates in Congress was read by him. It stated that two companies of expert riflemen were required of the County to join the army at Boston. The Committee proceeded to organize the two companies at once, which were commanded respectively by Michael Cresap and Thomas Price. Otho H. Williams, who afterwards attained great distinction in the army, and became a Brigadier-General, was made a Lieutenant in the second company. The riflemen marched from Frederick on the 18th of July, 1775, or less than thirty days after John Hanson called for them. After traveling 550 miles over the rough and different roads and ferries of that period, they arrived at Cambridge, Mass., on the 9th of August, making the long journey in 22 days without the loss of a man. These were the first troops from the South to join Washington.

The Convention of Maryland assembled on the 26th of July, 1775, in the midst of the appeal to arms. One of the first resolutions adopted was one to throw off the proprietary power and assume a provisional government, which would allow the unrestrained action of the Province. In the proceedings of the Convention John Hanson took a prominent part. In the discussions his boldness and fearlessness in advocating and advancing sentiments which might prove disastrous to him afterwards alarmed even his friends, but he knew no fear and was prepared to take the consequences. The Convention issued its Declaration of Independence, known as the “Association of the Freemen of Maryland,” in which they fearlessly declared that they would “repel force by force,” and in the maintenance of their liberties

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they pledged themselves to support the "present opposition," and that they would defend, with the utmost power, the Continental Congress, our Convention, Council of Safety and Committees of Observation.

Under the powers of the "Association of the Freemen of Maryland," of which John Hanson was a signer, all the power of government was vested in the Provincial Convention, composed of five delegates from each County, elected to serve one year. The executive power was vested in a Committee of Safety, elected by the Convention, consisting of eight members from each shore. This Committee had full charge of military and naval matters.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the Middle District of Frederick County, held at the Court-house in Frederick Town on the 12th of September, 1775, John Hanson was made a member of the Committee of Observation, according to the resolution of the Convention of Maryland. On the 26th of December following he was appointed by the Provincial Convention on the committee to establish a gun-lock manufactory at Frederick. He also filled positions on various other important committees, among them the Provincial Committee for Licensing Suits, and the Committee for the Building of a Military Jail, or Barracks, in Frederick Town, where a large number of British prisoners of war were afterwards confined.

During his Chairmanship of the Committee of Observation the formidable Tory conspiracy of Lord Dunmore, Dr. John Connolly, Allan Cameron, Dr. John Smith and White Eyes, an Indian Chief, was discovered and frustrated. As early as July, 1775, John Hanson wrote to Peyton Randolph, of Virginia, the first President of the Continental Congress, that "There is too much reason to believe that an expedition will be set on foot by the British and Indians in Canada against the western frontiers of this State [Maryland], Virginia and Pennsylvania."

"Agents and allies of the King and Parliament, of General Gage and Lord Dunmore, it is believed, in this place, are now operating with the Delaware and Shawnese Indians in Ohio, and bands in Kentucky and Canada, with a view to destroy our frontier towns and desolate our homes and firesides. We are determined to keep a vigilant eye on all such agents and emissaries,

but it would be highly prudent to take early measures to supply the arsenal and barracks at Frederick Town with arms and ammunition, to enable the male population to defend all the inhabitants in case the emergency should arise in which it will become our solemn duty to act."

These predictions were fully verified, as was afterwards seen. John Hanson had the people of Frederick County on the alert, and to their vigilance was due the discovery and frustration of this well-conceived plot. By order of John Hanson, Chairman of the Committee of Observation, patrols and minutemen were constantly scouring the country, ready to apprise the inhabitants of the first signs of danger, and Connolly, the chief conspirator, and his companions, happening to fall in with one of these parties near Hagerstown, while on his way to Detroit, and not being able to give a satisfactory account of themselves, were arrested on suspicion and taken to Frederick. The men were carefully searched and examined, and on the following day John Hanson transmitted to the President of Congress, at Philadelphia, copies of the examinations and the papers found on the prisoners.

The following correspondence, in relation to the apprehension of these dangerous conspirators, is quite interesting :

FREDERICK COUNTY, MD., November 24th, 1775.
TO THE HONORABLE JOHN HANCOCK,
President of the Congress.

Sir:—I am directed by the Committee of this County to transmit to you copies of the examination of Allan Cameron, John Smith, John Connolly, and a letter to one Gibson, from Connolly, and Lord Dunmore's speech to White Eyes, and a proposal by Connolly to General Gage for raising an army for the destruction of the liberties of the Colonies. Any orders relative to the prisoners will be strictly observed; the committee and the inhabitants of this County being determined to pursue every measure which the Congress may recommend to them as necessary for the preservation of these Colonies, at this time of imminent danger.

I am, very respectfully sir, your most humble servant,

JOHN HANSON, Chairman.

PHILADELPHIA, December 8th, 1775.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MD.

Gentlemen:—Your letter of the 24th of November last being received, was laid before Congress, and I am directed to inform you that the Congress highly approves your conduct and vigilance in seizing Cameron, Smith and Connolly.

I do myself the pleasure of inclosing you a resolution of Congress, respecting the place of their confinement, and I am directed to desire you, in pursuance of said resolution, to send the prisoners, under guard, to Philadelphia.

I am, gentlemen, etc.,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

PHILADELPHIA, December 2d, 1775.

TO GENERAL WASHINGTON:

* * * * *

Yesterday we received advice by express from the Committee of Frederick, in Maryland, that Connolly and three associates were taken prisoners, and are now in confinement in that County. By his examination taken and the papers found with him, the deposition of his servant, which you transmitted to Congress, is fully confirmed.

I have the honor to be, sir, etc.,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

PHILADELPHIA, December 6th, 1775.

TO GENERAL WASHINGTON:

This treaty with the Indians is more likely to last, as Connolly, with his little corps of officers, are now in close custody in Maryland, having been arrested there as they were stealing through the country to Pittsburgh, from whence they were to proceed to Detroit, and with the troops in those western parts, Indians, etc., he was to have done wonders. This wonderful man is now in close jail.

I am, with much esteem, dear sir, your affectionate and obedient servant,

RICHARD HENRY LEE.

On February 2d, 1776, John Hanson was appointed, by the Maryland Council of Safety, on a committee to collect silver and gold from the inhabitants of Frederick County for the benefit of the popular cause, under the following Resolution of Congress passed January 20th, 1776.

"WHEREAS, it being necessary to produce a large quantity of specie for the operations in Canada, which cannot be successfully carried on without that article, therefore, be it

"*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the General Assemblies upon the continent, to employ proper persons within their respective Colonies to collect all the gold and silver they can, and to inform the Congress of the sum collected."

PHILADELPHIA, April 25th, 1776.

Sir:—I have delivered in charge to Mr. Hanson and Mr. Cox, three hundred thousand dollars for the service of the Army in Canada, and have directed them, by order of Congress, to deliver the same to you, and am to request you will please to order it to be sent to General Schuyler at Albany, under the care of an officer and some of the troops destined for Canada to be delivered to General Schuyler.

I am, with esteem, sir, your very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Early in 1776 the ablest pens and speakers were employed to convince the people of the necessity of a complete separation from the mother country, and the establishment of an independent government. The members of Congress requested the County Committees to call the freemen together to express their sentiments on the question of independence, and to rouse the people to instruct their Delegates in Convention to remove the restrictions which the Convention had put upon them.

The freemen of the Lower District of Frederick County, on June 17th, 1776, unanimously

"*Resolved*, That what may be recommended by a majority of the Congress, equally delegated by the people of the United Colonies, we will, at the hazard of our lives and fortunes, support

and maintain, and that every resolution of the Convention tending to separate this province from a majority of the Colonies, without the consent of the people, is destructive to our internal safety."

Samuel Chase—who was mortified in seeing himself and his colleagues tied down by the instructions of the Maryland Convention, when he read the spirited resolution of Frederick County—wrote, on the 21st of June, to John Adams, "Read the papers and be assured Frederick speaks the sense of many Counties."

The resolution of the freemen of Frederick was substantially adopted by the Convention of Maryland, on the 28th of June, and the Maryland Delegates in Congress, on the 4th of July, 1776, voted with the other Colonies for Independence.

On the 9th of October, 1776, John Hanson was appointed on a commission which was authorized to proceed to the camps of the Maryland troops, to re-organize those already in service upon the new footing, and to induce as many as possible to enlist for the war. The Commissioners were furnished with blank commissions sent by Congress, and they were directed to act under the advice of Washington in appointing the officers of the new battalions.

PROCEEDING OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION,

October 9th, 1776.

Resolved, That this State, desirous of exerting the most strenuous efforts to support the liberties and independence of the United States, will therefore use its utmost endeavors to raise the eight battalions required by the Congress (including the troops already raised and in the service of the United States) as soon as possible.

That for this purpose this State will give a bounty of ten dollars to each non-commissioned officer and soldier who will enlist in the service of the United States for the war, in lieu of the hundred acres of land offered to them by Congress.

That four Commissioners be appointed to repair to the camps in Jersey and New York, and there obtain a list of the officers in the regular troops and Flying Camp from this State, now in

the service of the United States, as are willing to engage in the service during the war, and also to enlist or cause to be enlisted all or every of the said regular troops or Flying Camp militia in the service of the United States during the war, continuing the regular battalion and forming the independent companies into a battalion and fitting both up according to the Continental establishment ; and also forming such of the Flying Camp militia as shall enlist, as aforesaid, into battalions, and the said Commissioners, or any three of them, may also fill up such of the blank commissions sent to this Convention by Congress as may be immediately necessary for the officering of the said corps ; but in filling up the said commissions they are required not to introduce into the corps of the now regulars, any officer other than such as are of those regulars, nor into the corps which may be formed of the Flying Camp militia, any officer not now an officer in the said regular or Flying Camp ; and the Commissioners are also required to leave some of the offices vacant, that cadets of merit may be provided for ; which list of the officers so to be obtained, as well as the list of the appointments which shall be made as aforesaid, the said Commissioners shall return to this Convention, or in their recess, to the Council of Safety.

That the Commissioners exert their utmost endeavors to procure the enlistment of the regular troops and the militia from this State in the Continental service, and make report of the state and condition of the forces from this State, now in camp.

That the Commissioners be furnished with money sufficient to advance the bounty of ten dollars as aforesaid.

That the Commissioners, or any three or two of them, are empowered to receive of Congress any sum not exceeding thirty-six thousand one hundred and twenty pounds, in dollars, at seven shillings and six pence per dollar, on account of this State, to be applied in the said bounties.

That the Commissioners be instructed to consult with, and take advice from His Excellency, General Washington, respecting the promotion or the appointment of officers in Col. Smallwood's regiment, and the appointments to be made in the battalion to be formed of the independent companies and Flying Camp of this State.

That the said Commissioners be allowed, each, twelve pounds ten shillings, common money, per week, from the time they leave home until they return.

The Convention then proceeded to elect the Commissioners aforesaid, and

JOHN HANSON,
THOMAS CONTEE,
JAS. LLOYD CHAMBERLAINE,
BENJAMIN RUMSEY, ESQUIRES,

were elected.

Ordered that the President prepare a letter to the President of the Congress and transmit a copy of the above resolutions therein.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE COMMISSIONERS FROM
MARYLAND.

PHILADELPHIA, November 13th, 1776.

Gentlemen:—In consequence of a letter to Congress this day received from the honorable Convention of Maryland, inclosing sundry resolutions of that body relative to the raising their quota of the new levies, I have it in charge to furnish you with the resolutions of Congress passed yesterday, admitting the new levies to enlist for three years, and at the same time to inform you that if the inhabitants of the State of Maryland will enlist to serve during the continuance of the present war they already have the faith of the United States of America pledged for the land to be granted to such soldiers.

The resolutions referred to, you have enclosed, and contain the sense of Congress as to the mode of the new enlistments.

I am, with esteem, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN HANSON,
THOMAS CONTEE,
BENJAMIN RUMSEY,
JAS. LLOYD CHAMBERLAINE.

*Commissioners from Maryland for the appointment of officers
and promoting enlistments in the Army at Camp.*

MARYLAND COMMISSIONERS TO THE MARYLAND CONVENTION.

PHILADELPHIA, November 14th, 1776.

Sir:—On receipt of yours of the 10th inst., we waited on the honorable Congress. This morning received a letter and resolutions of Congress—the enclosed are copies. To us new difficulties arise, among others a grand one, whether our regular troops (who are already engaged during the war) should now be enlisted for three years. As we conceive the subject matter of these resolutions to be new, we wait for further instructions from the honorable Convention of our State.

As time grows short we have sent off the express with the utmost despatch.

We are, honorable sir, with great respect and esteem, your obedient, humble servants,

JOHN HANSON,
THOMAS CONTEE,
BENJAMIN RUMSEY,
JAS. LLOYD CHAMBERLAINE.

TO THE HONORABLE MATTHEW TILGHMAN,
President of the Convention, Maryland.

On the 10th of November the Convention of Maryland adopted the declaration of Rights and Constitution of Maryland. Under the new Constitution Maryland ceased to be a Province and became a State, vested with two distinct and co-ordinate legislative bodies, which were respectively called "The Senate" and "House of Delegates." The House of Delegates consisted of four members chosen by each of the Counties of the State, and two by each of the Cities of Annapolis and Baltimore. The election for members took place on the 17th of December, 1776, and the new government was fully organized on the 13th of February, 1777, by the election of Thomas Johnson as its first Governor.

John Hanson was tendered the nomination of Delegate to the first State Legislature, but as he was more actively engaged in the important work of re-enlisting and re-organizing the Maryland commands, he could not accept. He was, however, prevailed upon to accept a seat in the General Assembly of Maryland at

the Sessions of 1778 and 1779, where he took a leading part in the support of all measures for the advancement of the popular cause. He was a member of nearly all the important committees, and was distinguished for his untiring energy, diligence, integrity and patriotic ability.

Notwithstanding the fact that John Hanson was then serving his first term in the Continental Congress, having been elected a delegate thereto December 22d, 1779, and having taken his seat June 14th, 1780, the citizens of Frederick, relying in the most remarkable degree upon his patriotism and wisdom, re-elected him to the House of Delegates of Maryland, October, 1780, but he did not qualify, being then in Congress. On November, 1780, he was re-elected to Congress, and again the citizens of Frederick returned Hanson as one of their representatives in the House of Delegates at the session which convened November 14th, 1781, but Hanson sent in his resignation November 15th, 1781, and Thomas Johnson was returned December 11th, 1781, as Hanson's successor, but declined. On November 28th, 1781, Hanson was re-elected to Congress for his third term, and served until November 5th, 1782.

In a letter to Dr. Philip Thomas, his son-in-law, dated September 4th, 1782, he says: "As to my serving as a delegate in our Assembly next year, I hope my friends will excuse me. I think the public can have no further claim to my services. I have performed my term of duty, and they must give me a discharge. Retirement to persons of my age must be most desirable, and I hope I shall enjoy it in future without being censured for withdrawing from the public service."

Hanson had certainly earned the rest he desired after an almost continuous *public service of 25 years, from 1757 to 1781*, during one of the most trying and eventful periods in the history of this Country.

On the 5th of May, 1779, the Articles of Confederation were signed by all the States excepting Maryland, who refused to sign unless some provision was made for settling the question as to the Western domain. She resisted the claims of particular States as an extravagant pretense of right, inconsistent with reason and repugnant to justice; she contended that what was rescued from

the common enemy, by the common effort, ought of right to be a common property, to inure forever the common benefit of all the States. This position Maryland maintained from June, 1776, to 1781.

John Hanson was elected one of the Delegates to Congress in 1779, and took his seat June 14th, 1780, and notwithstanding all the States had ratified the Articles of Confederation excepting Maryland, she renewed her previous instructions to the Delegates not to sign unless some provision was made toward settling the question of the Western lands. John Hanson made great efforts to remove the impediment against the formation of the Union, and with the aid of his colleagues soon succeeded in effecting a compromise. Having succeeded in arousing the other States to a sense of the importance of the question, on the 29th of January, 1781, Maryland passed an "Act to empower the Delegates of this State in Congress to Subscribe and Ratify the Articles of Confederation," and on February 22d John Hanson attended and took his seat in Congress with power to sign the Articles of Confederation, with his associates.

Extract from "Journals of Congress and of the United States in Congress Assembled for the year 1781."

March 1st, 1781.—"According to the order of the day, the Honorable John Hanson and Daniel Carroll, two of the Delegates for the State of Maryland, in pursuance of the Act of the Legislature of that State, entitled, 'An Act to Empower the Delegates of this State in Congress to Subscribe and Ratify the Articles of Confederation,' which was read in Congress on the 12th of February last, and a copy thereof entered on the minutes, did, in behalf of the said State of Maryland, sign and ratify the said Articles, by which act the confederation of the United States of America was completed, each and every of the Thirteen United States, from New Hampshire to Georgia, both included, having adopted and confirmed, and by their delegates in Congress, ratified the same."

Immediately upon his entrance in Congress, 1780, John Hanson became very popular among his associates, and on November 5th, 1781, after the credentials of all the members were read, the body proceeded to the election of a President, and upon the

The United States of America in Congress Assembled,
Do all whom these presents shall come
Send Greeting.



Know Ye, That we have granted and by THESE PRESENTS do grant license and authority to

JESSE FEARSON, Mariner,

Commander of a Ship called "The Bacannier" of the burthen of Three hundred Tons or thereabout, belonging to Mess^{rs} Andrew Cabot and others of Beverly, in the County of Essex in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mounting eighteen carriage guns and navigated by one hundred and twenty men, to fit out and set forth the said Ship in a warlike manner, and by and with the said Ship and the Officers and Crew thereof, by force of Arms to attack, subdue, seize and take all Ships and other vessels goods, wares and merchandise belonging to

THE KING OR CROWN OF GREAT BRITAIN,

or to his subjects or others inhabiting within any of the Territories or possessions of the aforesaid KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, or any other ships or vessels, goods, wares, or merchandise to whomsoever belonging which are or shall be declared to be *Subject of Capture*, by an ordinance of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED which are so deemed by *The Law of Nations*, and the said Ships goods, wares and merchandise as aforesaid and as PRIZE TAKEN to bring into Port in order that proceedings may be had in due form of LAW
• • • Right and Justice appertaining.

AND WE REQUEST all Kings, Princes, States, and Potentates being in FRIENDSHIP or Alliance with us to give to the said JESSE FEARSON all aid, assistance and succour in their Ports with his said Vessel company and PRIZES. We engaging to do the like to all subjects of such Kings, Princes, States and Potentates who shall come unto any of our Ports.

And we will Require all our Officers whatsoever to give to the said JESSE FEARSON all necessary aid, succour and assistance in the premises.

This Commission shall continue in force during the pleasure of THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED—and no longer.

In Testimony Whereof, We have caused the Seal of the ADMIRALTY of The United States in Congress Assembled to be affixed hereunto.

WITNESS HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN HANSON, Esquire, President of THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED at PHILADELPHIA, this twenty-seventh day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, and in the sixth year of our INDEPENDENCE.

ATTEST

Chas. Thompson,

Secretary.

[Sig.]

John Hanson President



ballots being counted the Hon. John Hanson was elected. He was the first and only President chosen from Maryland to preside over the deliberations of the Continental Congress from its beginning, in 1774, to its end, in 1789.

A certified copy of an original letter of marque, or commission, issued to Jesse Fearson, Mariner, was signed by "*His Excellency John Hanson, Esquire*, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AT PHILADELPHIA, *this twenty-seventh day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, and in the sixth year of our Independence.*"

On December 31st, 1781, an ordinance was passed by Congress perpetually incorporating "The President, Directors and Company of the Bank of North America," which was signed by President Hanson.

This Bank became a National Banking Association in November, 1864, and owing to the fact that it had originally been chartered by Congress, it was allowed by the Comptroller of the Currency to retain its old title, without the prefix "National." This is the only National Bank in the country which is allowed to omit the prefix "National" to its title.

After the surrender of Cornwallis, at Yorktown, Va., Washington returned to his home, at Mount Vernon, where he remained several weeks, and then set out for Philadelphia. He arrived in that city late in November, and on the 28th, in accordance with a programme arranged by Congress, he was presented to that body. Being attended by two members, he made his appearance in old Independence Hall, and was introduced to Congress. President Hanson greeted him with the following address.

"Sir:—Congress, at all times happy in seeing Your Excellency, feel particular pleasure in your presence at this time, after the glorious success of the allied arms in Virginia. It is their fixed purpose to draw every advantage from it by exhorting the States in the strongest terms to the most vigorous and timely exertions. A committee has accordingly been appointed to state the requisitions necessary to be made for the establishment of the army, and they are instructed to confer with you upon that subject. It is,

therefore, the expectation of Congress that Your Excellency would remain for some time in Philadelphia, that they may avail themselves of your aid in this important business, and that you may enjoy a respite from the fatigues of war, as far as is consistent with the service."

To which His Excellency made the following reply :

"Mr. President :—I feel very sensibly the favorable declaration of Congress expressed by Your Excellency. This fresh proof of their approbation cannot fail of making a deep impression upon me, and my study shall be to deserve a continuance of it. It is with peculiar pleasure I hear that it is the fixed purpose of Congress to exhort the States to the most vigorous and timely exertions. A compliance on their parts will, I persuade myself, be productive of the most happy consequences.

I shall yield a ready obedience to the expectation of Congress, and give every assistance in my power to their committee. I am obliged by the goodness of Congress in making my personal ease and convenience a part of their concern. Should service require my attendance with the army upon the North River, or elsewhere, I shall repair to whatever place my duty calls, with the same pleasure I remain in this city."

On Monday, April 15th, 1782, a motion was made in Congress, which, being amended, read as follows :

"WHEREAS, His Excellency, John Hanson, Esq., is rendered unable by sickness at present to discharge the functions of his place of President of Congress ;

"*Resolved*, Therefore, that Congress will forthwith proceed to elect one of their number, by ballot, to preside only during the indisposition of the said John Hanson, Esq."

"*Resolved*, That whenever the President, for the time being, shall be prevented by sickness or otherwise from attending the House, one of the members present be chosen by ballot to act as Chairman, for the purpose of keeping order in the House only, but that all official papers shall nevertheless be signed and authenticated by the President as heretofore."

Congress thereupon elected Daniel Carroll, of Maryland, Chairman, who presided during the temporary indisposition of President Hanson.



INDEPENDENCE HALL.
REAR VIEW.

EXTRACT FROM THE JOURNAL OF CONGRESS, 1782.

May 13, 1782.

According to order the *Honorable the Minister of France* being admitted to a public audience, addressed Congress in a speech, of which the following is a translation:

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONGRESS:

Since the alliance so happily concluded between the King, my master, and the United States, you have taken too intimate a part in every event which interested his glory and happiness not to learn with sincere joy that Providence hath granted a *Dauphin* to the wishes of the King, your ally, and to those of France. His Majesty imparts to this event, gentlemen, in the letter which I am directed to have the honor of delivering.

The connections which unite the two nations, connections founded on justice and humanity and strengthened by mutual interests, will be as durable as they are natural. The Prince who is just born will one day be the friend and ally of the United States. He will in his turn support them with all his power, and while in his dominions, he shall be the father and protector of his people, he will be here the supporter of your children and the guarantor of their freedom.

The letter from *His Most Christian Majesty* was then delivered and read, of which the following is a translation:

VERY DEAR, GREAT FRIENDS AND ALLIES:

Satisfied of the interest you take in every event which affects us, we are anxious to inform you of the precious mark which Divine Providence has just given us of His great goodness, and of the protection He hath granted to our Kingdom. We do not doubt that you will partake in the joy we feel on the birth of our son, the *Dauphin*, of whom the Queen, our most dear spouse, is just now happily delivered. You will easily be convinced of the pleasure with which we shall receive every proof that you may give of your sensibility upon this occasion. We can renew at a period more affecting to us the assurances of our affection and our constant friendship for you. Upon which we

pray God that He would have you, very dear, great friends and allies, in His holy keeping. Written at Versailles the 22d of October, 1781.

Your good friend and ally,

LOUIS.

The President (the Hon. John Hanson) then addressed the Minister as follows :

Sir:—The repeated instances of friendship which the United States of America have received from *His Most Christian Majesty*, give him too just a title to the affections to permit them to be indifferent to any event which interests his happiness. Be assured, sir, that Congress learn with the most lively satisfaction that it has pleased the Divine Giver of all good gifts, to bless their august ally with an heir to his throne. Our earnest prayer is, that he may inherit with it the virtues which have acquired to His Majesty so much glory and to his dominions so much prosperity, and which will be the means of cementing and strengthening the union so happily established between the two nations, an union of which the mutual advantages become daily more conspicuous, and which have derived new lustre and additional force from every effort of the common enemy to dissolve it. Congress do not enlarge upon this subject, but satisfy themselves with the representations which your own observations will enable you, and your regard to the interests of both countries will induce you to make of the affectionate attachment which every rank of people within these States manifest to your Sovereign, and of their inviolable fidelity to the principles of the alliance.

Ordered, that a letter be written to the Commander-in-Chief and to the Commander of the Southern Department, by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, informing them of the public announcement of the birth of the Dauphin, that the same may be published in both armies with such demonstration of joy as their commanders shall respectively direct.

That the Secretary of Foreign affairs also inform the Governors and Presidents of the respective States of the birth of an heir to the crown of France, that the people in each State may partake of the joy, which an event which so nearly affects the happiness of their great and generous ally, cannot fail to excite.

The large number of British prisoners who were being fed and maintained by the United States, was a source of great anxiety on the part of Congress, and after many fruitless attempts on the part of General Washington, acting under instructions from Congress, to establish a satisfactory basis of exchange of prisoners, with the Commissioners of Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Digby, then commanding the British land and naval forces at New York, upon a general cartel for subsisting, safe-keeping, exchanging and better treating all land and naval prisoners of war. Congress, on September 16th, 1782,

Resolved, That the following commission be executed and transmitted to His Excellency General Washington :

THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

To all People who shall see these Presents, send Greeting:

WHEREAS, Justice and humanity and the practice of civilized nations, require that the calamities and asperities of war should as far as possible be mitigated ; and we being disposed for that benevolent purpose to accede to a general cartel between the United States of America and the British nation, for the exchange, subsistence and better treatment of all prisoners of war. Now therefore, KNOW YE, that reposing high confidence in the wisdom, prudence and integrity of our truly and well-beloved George Washington, Esquire, our Commander-in-Chief of all our armies, raised or to be raised for the defense of the United States of America, we have authorized and empowered, and by these presents do authorize and empower our said Commander-in-Chief for us and in our name, to negotiate, accede to and establish, in the proper forms and with the usual solemnities, such general cartel between the United States in Congress assembled and the King of Great Britain, for the exchange, subsistence and better treatment of all prisoners of war, as well land as naval prisoners, hereby giving and granting to our said Commander-in-Chief full power and authority, ultimately and on all points, to adjust and conclude the principles, terms and conditions of the said cartel, and in general to do and perform every matter and thing which shall in any wise be necessary for the final and perfect accomplishment thereof.

And the better to enable our said Commander-in-Chief to execute the trust reposed in him by these presents, we do hereby further authorize and empower him, from time to time, by commission under his hand and seal, to nominate and constitute such and so many commissioners as he shall judge necessary, to meet, treat, confer and agree with commissioners to be appointed and competently authorized on the part of the King of Great Britain, touching the terms, conditions and stipulations for subsisting, better treating and exchanging all prisoners of war, as aforesaid, as well as for liquidating and settling all accounts and claims whatsoever, respecting the maintenance and subsisting of prisoners of war on either side; and we do hereby declare that the engagements concluded upon by our said Commander-in-Chief in the premises, being mutually interchanged with the party contracting on behalf of the Crown and nation of Great Britain, shall be binding and conclusive on the United States of America.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these, our letters, to be made patent, and the great seal of the United States of America to be thereunto affixed:

WITNESS, His Excellency **John Hanson**, *Esquire, President of the United States in Congress Assembled, the sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two*, and of our sovereignty and independence the seventh.

[SIGNED]

JOHN HANSON, *President.*

On November 4th, 1782, the new Congress began, and Elias Boudinot was elected President. Upon the retirement of John Hanson, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Duane, and seconded by Mr. Izard, was adopted:

"Resolved, That the thanks of Congress be given to the Hon. John Hanson, late President of Congress, in testimony of their approbation of his conduct in the chair, and in the execution of public business."

John Hanson was now about 68 years old, and his health was greatly impaired. The war being comparatively over, the old patriot decided to retire to private life. But he did not live long

out of the public service in which he had served for twenty-five years, for he died in the following year on November 22d, 1783, at Oxon Hill, Prince George's County, while visiting his nephew, Thomas Hanson. John Hanson married Jane Contee, of Prince George's County, who survived him over thirty years, dying on February 21st, 1812, at Frederick, Md. They had a number of children, among them was Alexander Contee Hanson, an ardent supporter of the Revolutionary cause, and conspicuous for his zeal and energy in its behalf. On the 12th of February, 1778, he was made one of the Judges of the General Court, and held the office until October 3rd, 1789, when he was made Chancellor of the State, which office he retained until his death, at Annapolis, January 16th, 1806. He was an elector for President in 1789, and again in 1792. With Samuel Chase he compiled the laws of Maryland, passed from November 26th, 1763, to the close of the Session of 1784. In 1789 he was appointed to digest the testamentary laws of the State. He was also the author of a number of celebrated political pamphlets.

Samuel Hanson, another son of John Hanson, was surgeon of Washington's Life Guards; and Peter Contee Hanson, another son, was a Lieutenant in a Maryland Regiment, and mortally wounded at Fort Washington, in 1776.

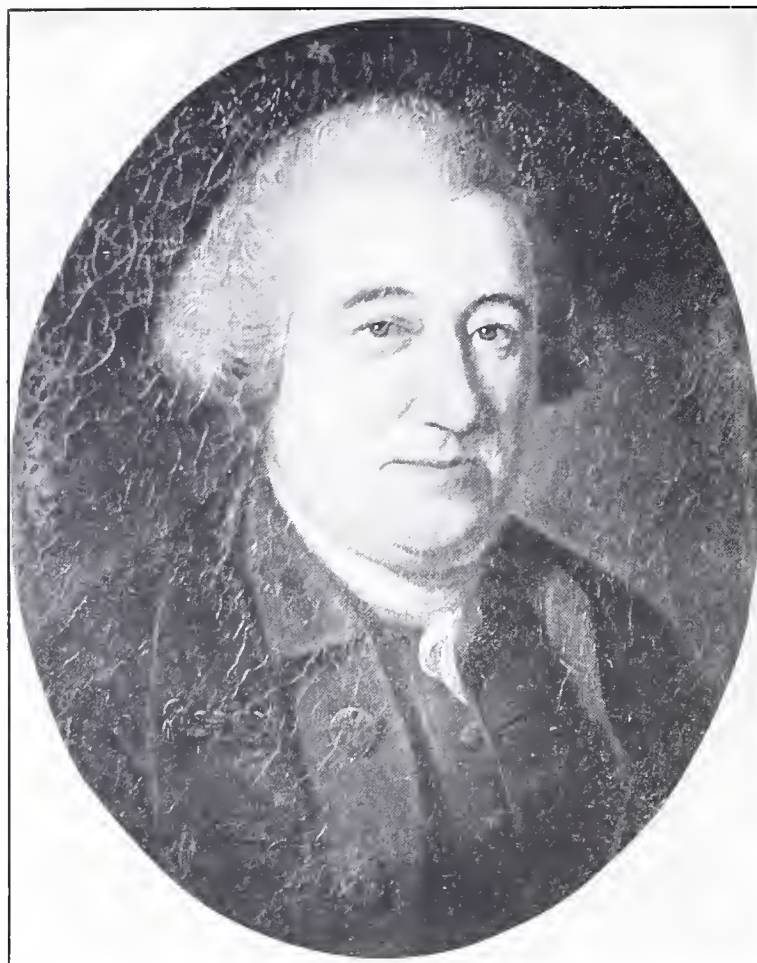
LAND OFFICE OF MARYLAND.

I Certify that the foregoing is a true statement taken from the Land and Historical Records in the Land Office and the State Library at Annapolis, Maryland.

In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Land Office of Maryland, this 16th day of March, eighteen hundred and ninety-two.

*J. THOMAS SCHARF,
Commissioner of the Land Office of Maryland.*





John Stanfon

Born 1715.

Died 1783.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED,
AT PHILADELPHIA, 1781-1782.

[From Portrait in Independence Hall, Philadelphia.]

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANSON,

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

PHILADELPHIA, 30th November, 1781.

Sir :

While I congratulate your Excellency on your appointment to fill the most important seat in the United States, I take the same opportunity to thank you, with great sincerity, for the very polite manner in which you are pleased to tender me the advantages of your correspondence. As a mutual free communication cannot fail to be attended with great satisfaction to me, and will undoubtedly be productive of very useful consequences to the public cause, you may be assured I shall pay very particular attention to your letters. I sincerely accord with you in sentiment, that our public affairs at present assume a promising aspect, but suffer me to begin the freedom of our correspondence by observing to your Excellency, that, upon our future vigorous improvement of the present favorable moment depend the happy consequences, which we now promise ourselves as the result of all the successful events of the last campaign.

I am,

Your very obedient servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM JOHN HANSON TO HIS SON-IN-LAW,
DR. PHILIP THOMAS.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 4th, 1780.

DEAR DOCTOR:

The account you have given me of my plantation affairs, and the plentiful crops in general, is very pleasing; the harvest throughout the country as far as I have heard is very great. No danger of our army wanting bread in future, if cash can be found to pay for it, but there lies the great difficulty. The States must principally be depended on, and they are extremely backward in their payments. The want of money will, I am afraid, embarrass our affairs exceedingly. Our army is in motion, a vigorous, offensive campaign in conjunction with our generous ally is intended, and little or no money in the Treasury to carry on its operations; this may retard, but still I trust we shall be able to get along. A million of dollars is coming on from Massachusetts, and I hope the other States will be forwarding theirs. In my last I mentioned the sailing of the British fleet from New York, and that I thought their destination was Rhode Island. The event has proved I was not mistaken. They are now lying off Block Island, in sight of Rhode Island, waiting, it is supposed, for the troops sent from New York through the Sound to co-operate with them. Whether they will be able to effect their purpose, which must be the destruction of the French fleet and army at Rhode Island, time will show. General Washington moved with his army on Friday last towards North River. It is probable he has crossed it before this time. The militia to the eastward are in motion. The Pennsylvania militia commanded by President Reed are under marching orders. Those of this town are to march the 10th instant, and I trust the troops from Maryland are on their way. In all probability the campaign will be bloody. God send it successful.

With great esteem, yours,

JOHN HANSON.

TO DR. PHILIP THOMAS,
Frederick Town, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 19th, 1780.

DEAR DOCTOR:

Our army is still much distressed for want of meat. They get one meal only in three days, and how long that scanty allowance will continue is uncertain. The Jersey inhabitants, in whose State the army

is, are plundered daily by parties of the army, without a possibility of constraint. Are not the worst of consequences to be dreaded from the armies thus caring for themselves? Will not the affections of these people who have upon all occasions exerted themselves in support of the common cause, be at length alienated from the army and look upon them rather in the light of robbers and enemies than the protectors of their rights? Is it not most shameful that our army should be starving and driven to such measures, while the country abounds with provisions?

Farewell, &c.,

JOHN HANSON,

TO DR. PHILIP THOMAS,
Frederick Town, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28th, 1781.

DEAR DOCTOR:

* * * * *

If General Greene can avoid coming to a general action for a few days, I think Cornwallis' army must be destroyed. The English ships are blocked up at Portsmouth by a 64 and 2 French frigates. A detachment from the main army of about 1,500 men are on the march, commanded by the Marquis De Lafayette, destined for Portsmouth, their route by way of the head of the Elk, and from thence by water. It is to be hoped that the State of Maryland will give all the assistance they can in this enterprise. They have some armed vessels at Baltimore and Annapolis, and men surely may be had.

With esteem, yours,

JOHN HANSON.

TO DR. PHILIP THOMAS,
Frederick Town, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, April 10th, 1781.

DEAR DOCTOR:

* * * * *

Should have left this place last week, but since the ratification of the Confederation, 9 States are required to make a Congress, 4 are unrepresented, and my withdrawal would leave a number insufficient to transact business, which at this critical conjuncture would perhaps be thought unpardonable. However, I hope to get away by Thursday next. Some absent members are sent for, and one from Jersey is expected in to-day or to-morrow, when that State will be represented.

Yours most affectionately,

JOHN HANSON.

TO DR. PHILIP THOMAS,
Frederick Town, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 16th, 1781.

DEAR DOCTOR :

The British have repaired the damage received in their late engagement with the Count de Grasse, and have been reinforced with six ships of the line. Their fleet now consists of twenty-nine ships of the line, which, from undoubted intelligence, sailed from the Hook about the 10th with ten fine ships and upwards of five thousand troops for the relief of Lord Cornwallis, on whose defense or defeat the issue of the combat they think depends. This is a very formidable fleet, and though considerably inferior to the French, yet as so much depends upon the event of a second engagement, my fears are somewhat excited. The Count de Grasse and General Washington are informed of their approach. The former will, no doubt, be prepared to receive them, and the latter will be quickened in his operations against the besieged. In a few days we may expect to receive advices of utmost importance. God grant they may be favorable to America. I am very sorry Mr. Johnson is left out of the delegation. I wish with all my heart he had been in my place, conscious of his superior abilities to serve the public in general and our country in particular. Supposing a vacancy should happen, would he, do you think, be elected? I wish to be informed in this particular.

Affect.,

JOHN HANSON.

TO DR. PHILIP THOMAS,
Frederick Town, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 23rd, 1781.

DEAR DOCTOR :

* * * * *

I congratulate you most sincerely upon the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to General Washington, of which most important event we have information, by a letter from the Count de Grasse, dated the 18th, to Governor Lee, and by him forwarded to the President of Congress by express. The particulars we expect to receive from General Washington in two or three days. The Count's letter is as follows: "I have just desired General Washington to send me back my troops, of which, probably, he will no longer stand in need, as Lord Cornwallis has surrendered. As soon as they are embarked I shall quit the Bay of Chesapeake, and endeavor to co-operate to the welfare of the United States in stopping, if I can, Sir Henry Clinton."

The British fleet sailed from the Hook on 19th, in the evening, and, as the winds have been unfavorable for them, it is probable the Count will get out before they make our capes, and, as his force is greatly superior to the British, should they come to blows the most favorable issue for us may be expected. The capture of Cornwallis, with the great number of vessels and the large quantity of British and

West India goods, arms, etc., that must have fallen into our hands, is a most capital stroke, and will tend more towards obtaining peace and to the security of our independence than the best managed negotiations. I was ever of opinion that no depredations upon the trade of the English—no conquests of their possessions in the East and West Indies, will induce them to make peace while they have an army in the United States and can flatter themselves with the hopes of conquering or regaining America, because it is probable they think that with America under their government they can easily regain what they may lose in any part of the world. Whereas, the total expulsion or captivity of their forces in the United States would extinguish their hopes and dispose them to peace sooner than anything else.

Affectionately,

JOHN HANSON.

TO DR. PHILIP THOMAS,
Frederick Town, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 6th, 1781.

DEAR DOCTOR :

* * * * *

I have written to the Speaker of the House of Delegates resigning my seat in the Legislature, which you will immediately make public, and if Mr. Johnson will serve, pray use your influence in getting him elected. * * * *

Affectionately,

JOHN HANSON.

TO DR. PHILIP THOMAS,
Frederick Town, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, November 13th, 1781.

DEAR DOCTOR :

The load of business which I have very unwillingly and very imprudently taken on me, I am afraid will be more than my constitution will be able to bear, and the form and ceremony necessary to be observed by a President of Congress is to me extremely irksome, moreover I find my health declining, and the situation of my family requires my being at home ; I shall therefore take the first opportunity of applying for leave of absence, this, to yourself. The British fleet is retired to the Hook, and transports have been sent down from New York to take off the troops. It is probable the fleet will return to the West Indies. We have no certain account of the French fleet having yet left our Bay.

Affectionately,

JOHN HANSON.

TO DR. PHILIP THOMAS,
Frederick Town, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, November, 16th, 1781.

My last was of the 13th, by the post, acquainting you for the reasons I mentioned, of my intentions of resigning my seat as President of Congress, and accordingly, on Wednesday last, I desired leave of absence, but some of the members expressing their dissatisfaction at my so soon laying Congress under the difficulty of electing another, (for a difficulty there would be, as the votes of seven States are necessary and only seven States are at present represented). I shall continue, unless the assembly of our State should leave me out of the Delegation.

Affectionately,

JOHN HANSON.

To MRS. JOHN HANSON,
Frederick, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, September 4th, 1782.

DEAR DOCTOR :

* * * * *

I have been so much taken up with public business and have been so long absent from my farm that I have almost forgotten how much of it is now in stubble field, and cannot say whether it would be prudent to sow any of it this Fall in small grain.

As to my serving as a delegate in our Assembly next year, I hope my friends will excuse me. I think the public can have no further claim to my services. I have performed my term of duty and they must give me a discharge—retirement to people of my age must be most desirable, and I hope I shall enjoy it in future without being censured for withdrawing from the public service.

We shall leave this place about the 6th or 8th of November, and I shall return either by Lancaster or Baltimore ; a passage across the Bay being too uncertain at that season.

Affectionately yours,

JOHN HANSON.

To DR. PHILIP THOMAS,
Frederick Town, Md.

PHILADELPHIA, Sep. 24th, 1782.

DEAR DOCTOR :

A vessel just arrived here from Amsterdam, and another at Boston from the same place with clothing for our army. By this vessel Congress has received dispatches from our minister at the Hague. He mentions nothing respecting the negotiations for peace, but the Declaration of our Independence by the Dutch is confirmed, which, by order of Congress, will be communicated by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs to the executive of each State. * * * * *

Affectionately,

JOHN HANSON.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 2d, 1782.

DEAR DOCTOR:

My Presidentship expires the first Monday in next month, and we can't set out for some days after. * * * Our European intelligence respecting the negotiations for peace is not very favorable. It appears the British minister is for procrastination, in hopes it may be supposed of another 12th of April, they will be for trying the fortunes of another campaign and trust to the chapter of accidents. Congress has just received late advices from Canada; between 3,000 and 4,000 British troops are expected there from England, and 1,500 foreign troops from New York, to strengthen their position in that Country, while the whole force of the British nation is to be employed against the French and Spanish possessions in the West Indies. Colonel Campbell, agent for Indian affairs, has had a meeting with the Indians (at which our informant was present). He told them that the King had ordered him to acquaint them that, from *compassion to his American subjects*, he had ordered that all hostilities against them should cease; that, therefore, they must not in future make any incursions or commit any ravages upon them until further orders. The Indian Sachem answered that he was very sensible of the present situation of the Indians, and of the English; that the Americans had beat them everywhere, and that the English was no longer able to carry on the war, that it was time the Indian should look to their own concerns or be sacrificed. He concluded by telling Campbell that he should no longer listen to his lies, and went off much dissatisfied. Transports are gone from New York to take off the garrison at Charles Town. It is probable that this account is true, as preparations for the evacuation of that place have been making for some time. By letters, this day received from General Greene, we have the disagreeable account of the death of that worthy young man and brave officer, Colonel Laurens. He was killed in a skirmish with the enemy near Charles Town with a few others.

Farewell,
JOHN HANSON.

LETTER FROM J. THOMAS SCHARF.

(*The Evening News*, Baltimore, July 19th, 1897.)

The Commissioners appointed to recommend to the next Legislature the names of two illustrious Marylanders worthy of being commemorated by having their statues placed in the National Statuary Gallery at Washington, have a doubly difficult duty—first to select the subjects and then to select the sculptors. The first duty, however, is simplified by an Act of Congress of July 2d, 1864, which authorizes the President to “invite each and all the States to provide and furnish statues in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number from each State, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof and illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civil or military services, such as each State shall determine to be worthy of that national commemoration.”

This leaves a long catalogue of illustrious men to choose from, and it will be difficult for the committee to discriminate between the claims of the large number who will be urged upon them as being worthy of the honor. Much can be said why a large number of those who have been most prominently mentioned in the *News* should not be selected, but I will refrain from discussing their merits and will not give expression at the present time to the feeling of those familiar with Maryland history. The Commissioners may feel assured, however, that whatever two great Marylanders they select there will be plenty of people to insist that they ought to have chosen two others. I do hope, however, that their selection will not create the surprise and disappointment that was felt in Pennsylvania when Simon Cameron's Commissioners selected as representative Pennsylvanians “of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods” a Virginia Colonel, and an inventor who left Pennsylvania as a youth, before the war was ended, and achieved distinction years afterward in another State, passing over such men as Penn and Franklin, Wayne and Morris and other distinguished worthies of that State.

Without wishing to detract from the other distinguished names mentioned, I sincerely hope that the Commission will imitate Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and choose two persons to represent Maryland, one to typify the Colonial period and the other the Revolutionary. Massachusetts selected Winthrop for the first and Samuel Adams for the second, and Rhode Island carried out the same idea in the selection of Roger Williams and Nathaniel Greene.

Now, what will hold out to the world so fairly and so well the history of Maryland as the effigies of Cecilius Calvert and John Hanson? The one is the principal figure of the American Colonial period—peculiarly representative of the idea on which this country was founded and grew up—and the other one of the most brilliant statesmen of the Revolution, who helped to plant the tree of liberty, and who upheld it, with strong arm and unwavering heart, when shaken rudest by the storm of war.

All of Cecilius Calvert's contemporaries and all unprejudiced historians agree in ascribing to him extensive learning, great ability as a statesman, the most enlarged and just views respecting colonization, a bold and chivalrous spirit of adventure and a character of such dazzling purity that even bigotry despairs of finding a blemish on it.

In the founding of Maryland Cecilius Calvert lacked no single royal power; his title ran, "Cecilius, Absolute Lord of Maryland and Avalon," and the only difference between him and an independent sovereign was the acknowledgement of fealty, typified by the tender of "two Indian arrows" in every year, on Tuesday in Easter week, and the reservation of the fifths of gold and silver. In the administration of the government of the province in which he and his descendants were to exercise the supreme executive authority, he kept steadily in view, above all other interests, the rights and happiness of the people; he voluntarily renounced every attribute of arbitrary power and omitted none of the safeguards of popular liberty. Starting at once with that long step in advance, Maryland had the lead of other colonies in the essential properties of independence, and it cannot be doubted that during the time the Colony was governed by the dynasty which founded it, it manifested the benefits of that incipient independence.

In the early Colony of Maryland, I have no hesitation in saying that Cecilius Calvert presented to the Government of the United States the best example of republican simplicity in its form and action of government; that it afforded the loftiest example of religious tolerance and equality that was ever presented; and that in the treatment of the Indians, its conduct was that of surpassing righteousness, and as these were constantly and heartily practiced in that period, it is fairly deducible that the founders of the government of this nation were largely and effectively influenced by these examples, and hence to these examples in their effect on the minds of others do we owe, in part, at least, the recognition and the security by constitutional provisions of some of the rights dearest to us as men, as patriots, as Christians, and some of the practices of those national virtues which concern us as philanthropists. All honor and fame, therefore, to Cecilius Calvert, and let us commemorate his virtues and his triumphs by carrying into effect that which we have often discussed, the erection of his statue.

The principles which were breathed in Maryland first by Calvert's pilgrims were vindicated nearly a century and a half later by John Hanson and his co-laborers, through suffering and reverse, through glory and shame, by the establishment of permanent civil and religious liberty in the Western Hemisphere. Hanson and his co-patriots fought the battle of the human race in all time to come. Stamp-acts and tea-chests were nothing. Had there been none of these the battle would still have been waged! For it had been written upon the book of human destiny that they should purchase with their blood and talents an asylum for a world of suffering men; and they did so.

John Hanson was born in Charles County, Md., in 1715, and was descended from a long line of distinguished ancestry. He was an influential citizen in the affairs of his County long before he represented Charles County in the Lower House of Assembly in 1757. Conspicuous for his talents, his education, and lofty character, he commanded the respect of all men. When he entered the Legislature restless activity was abroad in the public mind, prophetic of coming events. No man at that time dreamed of independence, and yet the elements of revolution and nationality were combining with a wonderful power of assimilation. The French and Indian War and resistance to the Stamp Act taught them to combine, as well for the protection of their liberty against tyranny as of their territories against war.

In the political discussions against the oppressions of Great Britain, John Hanson entered with an ardent soul into the defense of Colonial freedom. He laid upon the altar of freedom the offering of a valiant heart and served his country gallantly in the hour of trial in the Assembly of his State in the years 1757, '58, '61-'63, '65, '66, '67, '68, and '73. When the tide of immigration turned toward Frederick County in 1773, he removed there where his counsel was immediately sought by the people as being the wisest and safest they could obtain. His honesty inspired universal respect and confidence, and his singularly vigorous and well-balanced mind made him a leader among men. At the first public meeting held at the Court-house in Frederick on the 20th of June, 1774, to make common cause with Massachusetts in reference to the passage of the "Boston Port Bill" he presided and was elected a delegate to the "General Congress at Annapolis." This great man also filled many other stations of high trust and eminent danger for his adopted county. He was several times chairman of the Committee of Observation; a member of the Committee of Correspondence, and several other important committees, including Treasurer of the county. He set on foot manufactories for the production of gunpowder, arms and equipments, and assisted in the organization of the first two companies of riflemen who joined the army under Washington at Cambridge, Mass. In 1775 he was one of the "Association of Freemen," pledged to "repel force by force" in the maintenance of their liberties.

It is only in times of peril that the worth of men can be truly valued. At such periods courage has all its honor—wisdom all its loveliness. Danger is the magazine, who can unveil the deformity of treason, and dissolve false pretensions into their native nothingness. The influence of Hanson grew with every crisis. The confidence of his countrymen was secured by his eloquence and by the most useful qualities of firmness and judgment in council. His opinions were consulted in all the difficulties of that trying period.

The subject of national independence was in debate before the Congress of the Thirteen Colonies. With nothing but a righteous cause, the patriotism of America was about to weigh itself in the balance against all odds and opposers. Mr. Hanson began now to see realized his views and predictions made from the beginning of the contest. He had strenuously, but in vain, opposed the instructions which the Convention of Maryland gave its representatives in Congress “to disavow, in the most solemn manner, all design in the colonies of independence.” He was now mortified in seeing the Maryland representatives in Congress still tied down to those unwise and timid instructions, and he resolved to exert himself at once for their repeal. For this purpose he roused the people of Frederick to assemble in public meeting on June 17th, 1776, and they resolved that they would “support the union of the colonies” with their “lives and fortunes.” This resolution was immediately forwarded to Annapolis where the Provincial Convention was in session, and it aided very materially in causing the Convention on the 28th of June, 1776, to withdraw the instructions of December, 1775, and substitute for them instructions “to concur with the other united colonies, or a majority of them, in declaring the united colonies free and independent States.” The new instructions were received by the Maryland delegates in Congress on the 2d of July, when they gave their unanimous vote for independence.

In October, 1776, he was appointed on a commission authorized to proceed to the camps of the Maryland troops to induce the men to enlist for the war. Upon the organization of the State Government he was tendered the nomination of Delegate to the first State Legislature, but declined the honor on account of being more actively engaged in the field of re-enlisting and reorganizing the Maryland commands. He was, however, prevailed upon to serve in the Legislative Assembly in 1778 and 1779, when as a member of nearly all the most important committees he distinguished himself by his untiring energy, diligence, integrity and patriotic ability. He was elected a delegate to Congress in 1779, and took his seat June 14th, 1780, and upon the ratification of the Articles of Confederation—the first constitution and form of government of the thirteen Colonies—he was elected by Congress “President of the United States.” This is the first and only “President of the United States” ever elected from Maryland, and while serving as such Mr. Hanson had the pleasure of thanking Washington for his victory at Yorktown.

Hanson served three terms in the Continental Congress, and the hour came at length when prolonged years had reached their limit. He had witnessed the struggles of his country's birth. He had aided to strengthen its infancy and to advance its growth, and, now that the liberties of his country had been established, full of years, fuller of honors, blessed in his life, more blessed in the happiness of his country, this great statesman yielded his last breath while on a visit to his nephew, Thomas Hanson, at Oxon Hill, Prince George's County, on November 22d, 1783. His wife, Jane Contee, of Prince George's County, survived him over thirty years, dying at Frederick on February 21st, 1812. Alexander Contee Hanson, an ardent supporter of the Revolutionary War, one of the Judges of the General Court and Chancellor of the State, Presidential Elector for Washington, author of the Laws of Maryland and several pamphlets, was his son. Dr. Samuel Hanson, surgeon of Washington's Life Guards, and Lieut. Peter Contee Hanson of the Maryland troops, who was mortally wounded at Fort Washington in 1776, were also his sons.

John Hanson was unquestionably a great man and well deserves a place in the National Valhalla, and if there are other Marylanders who also ought to be there, let us remember that we could not send them all, and be glad that we are able to send two so justly distinguished as Calvert and Hanson.

J. THOMAS SCHARF.

NEW YORK, July 17th, 1897.

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS.

The services of this sturdy patriot, John Hanson, entitles him to a monument, and no Marylander is more deserving of a niche in Statuary Hall than he.—*Baltimore Daily Record*, June 1, 1897.

The Hansons were originally of Kent County, and, therefore, the life and history of this distinguished member of the family has an especial interest to our people, and the perpetuation of his memory should be a matter of our earnest solicitude.—*Enterprise, Chestertown*, June 2, 1897.

In 1781 and 1782 John Hanson, of Maryland, was "President of the United States in Congress assembled," the highest civil office ever attained by a Marylander. His career and his eminence gives him a just claim to the consideration and honor of the present generation when we are discussing the selection of distinguished Marylanders entitled, by reason of their eminent services, to be commemorated in marble or bronze in the Capitol at Washington.—*Easton Ledger*, June 3, 1897.

In discussing the selection of two distinguished Marylanders entitled, by reason of their eminent services, to be commemorated in bronze or marble in the Capitol at Washington, John Hanson should not be forgotten. He occupied the highest office ever filled by a Marylander, and his name is intimately connected with the early history of this State.—*Talbot Times*, June 3, 1897.

Interest in the discussion of the selection of two distinguished Marylanders entitled, by reason of their eminent services, to be commemorated in Statuary Hall of the Capitol at Washington, has brought out an interesting brochure setting forth facts for the consideration in that connection of the name of John Hanson, who, in addition to his wideawake patriotic services, dating from the time of the Stamp Act agitation, was, in the closing years of the Revolution, "the President of the United States in Congress assembled," the highest office ever filled by a Marylander.—*Manufacturers' Record*, June 4, 1897.

In the discussion relative to the choice of two eminent Marylanders for statuary honors in the Capitol at Washington, the names of several have been mentioned with which, previously, the public seemed to

have had but little knowledge. One of these is John Hanson, * * * and all must agree that in naming eminent Marylanders for statuary honors that John Hanson should have prominent consideration.—*Baltimore Telegram*, June 5, 1897.

In discussing the selection of distinguished Marylanders to be represented in bronze or marble in the Capitol at Washington, the patriotism and statesmanship of John Hanson entitles him to great consideration.—*Calvert Journal*, June 5, 1897.

The history of this patriotic Marylander is full of stirring historical incidents, both before and after the Declaration of Independence, which entitles his memory to a grateful consideration and honor at the hands of the general government, and by reason of his eminent services in the cause of American liberty is worthy to be commemorated in bronze or marble in the Capitol at Washington.—*Havre de Grace Republican*, June 5, 1897.

John Hanson was among the earliest patriots of the country, and his distinguished acts should have long since been commemorated in a monument of lasting bronze or stone.—*Evening Capital, Annapolis* June 5, 1897.

Clearly and concisely set forth why this distinguished Marylander's memory is entitled to commemoration in bronze or marble statue in the Capitol at Washington by reason of his eminent services.—*Progress, Ellicott City*, June 5, 1897.

John Hanson was President of the United States in Congress assembled. This was the highest office ever filled by a Marylander, and, as Hanson was one of the foremost Revolutionary characters in Maryland, he is presented as a fitting candidate for one of the statues to be placed by Maryland in the Capitol at Washington.—*News*, June 10, 1897.

The writer establishes a good claim for the name of John Hanson to be commemorated by a statue in the Capitol at Washington.—*Carroll News*, June 15, 1897.

John Hanson, identified with Frederick County for the greater part of his life, filled the highest office ever occupied by a Marylander, serving as "the President of the United States in Congress assembled, 1781-1782." Devoted to the cause of American independence, and asso-

ciated with every important movement made by the people of Maryland towards the establishment of a free government, he deservedly ranks among the worthies whom this commonwealth should delight to honor. It has been suggested that in the selection of the eminent Marylanders whose names are to be perpetuated either in bronze or marble in the Capitol at Washington, the eminent patriot has a just claim to the honor.—*Maryland Bulletin, Frederick, June 16, 1897.*

The name of John Hanson has been suggested as a distinguished Marylander worthy to be honored by one of the two statues to be erected in Statuary Hall, Washington. * * * Hanson was at the head of every movement and presided at nearly all public meetings in Frederick. He was frequently chosen to represent his constituents at Annapolis, and was elected to represent the State in Congress, of which body he became president, the highest office ever bestowed upon a citizen of Maryland.—*Banner of Liberty, Libertytown, July 8.*

Discussing the question of which one of her illustrious sons the State of Maryland should celebrate in bronze or marble in the statuary room at the capitol, Mr. Douglas H. Thomas, of Baltimore, furnishes a brief history of Hon. John Hanson, and makes what seems to us an unanswerable argument in favor of his recognition. The accuracy of his narrative was certified, in 1892, by J. Thomas Scharf, Commissioner of the Land Office, who deposes that all the statements therein made are taken from the land and historical records in the State Library at Annapolis. * * * It would be difficult, we think, to refute the claim of precedence for John Hanson. We do not believe that any Marylander ever rendered more brilliant services in the cause of independence or held higher places either in official station or in the love and reverence of his fellow-patriots.—*Washington Post, July 10, 1897.*

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS TO DOUGLAS H. THOMAS.

I sincerely trust that the distinguished services of John Hanson will receive proper recognition.

ALONZO L. THOMSEN.

BALTIMORE, June 1st, 1897.

It brings to my attention what has escaped it, and as an Eastern-shoreman, I should be glad to see this hero honored and his patriotic memory perpetuated by proper statuary in the halls of our Nation's Capitol.

A. LINCOLN DRYDEN.

ANNAPOLIS, June 1st, 1897.

The career of John Hanson would certainly seem to entitle him to recognition as one of Maryland's foremost men of early times.

N. WINSLOW WILLIAMS.

BALTIMORE, June 2d, 1897.

I will take pleasure in proposing the name of John Hanson, the great Revolutionary patriot, statesman and scholar of Maryland ; who, in my opinion, is entitled, by reason of his distinguished record, to be commemorated in marble or bronze, and honored with a place in Memorial Hall.

EMMA THOMAS WILKS.

BALTIMORE, June 3d.

I consider him a Marylander whose services to the whole country give him a claim to National recognition.

CHARLES B. TIERNAN.

BALTIMORE, June 3rd, 1897.

I am greatly obliged for the statement from the Land and Historical Records of the State touching the life and services of "John Hanson, President of the United States in Congress Assembled," received yesterday. In my opinion there should be no hesitation in the selection of Mr. Hanson as one of the two distinguished Marylanders whose services should be commemorated in bronze or marble in the Capitol at Washington.

GEORGE M. RUSSUM.

DENTON, June 5th, 1897.

I desire to express my thanks to you for the sketch of John Hanson, of whose patriotic career all sons of Maryland may well be proud.

JOHN J. DOBLER.

BALTIMORE, June 5th, 1897.

I have read the account of John Hanson with much interest. I shall use it as an object lesson in teaching our young men the lessons of patriotism, financial honesty and heroism, so amply illustrated in the pages of our colonial history. Hanson's name is a very familiar one to me, and I am particularly gratified in learning the details of the life of a man whose name will ever be cherished by every true son of Maryland.

LEWIS W. WILHELM.

BALTIMORE, June 7th, 1897.

His important services during a very critical period of our history ought to be held in lasting remembrance by the people of the entire country, and particularly by the citizens of Maryland.

HERBERT EVELETH GREENE.

BALTIMORE, June 7th, 1897.

John Hanson was among the noblest of them all ; statesman, far-seeing patriot, a clear cut figure in those stormy times.

Yesterday I carried the little book to school and showed the children the two portraits, and told the story of John Hanson.

LIZETTE WOODWORTH REESE.

BALTIMORE, June 8th, 1897.

The suggestion of Mr. Hanson's name in connection with the proposed erection of statues in Washington, to two distinguished Marylanders, is both opportune and appropriate.

SAMUEL D. SCHMUCKER.

BALTIMORE, June 9th, 1897.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of booklet, "John Hanson, etc.," and feel constrained to add, I should be glad to see his statue at Washington after the final selection is made.

Do we not too often pass by that which gives real strength to any cause, and is it possible that such heroic and sustained patriotism has received so little public recognition?

WM. F. BEISWANGER.

BALTIMORE, June 10th, 1897.

I have read the brief historical account of John Hanson with much interest, and am glad to own that it brought to my knowledge the career of a man who deserved so highly the gratitude of posterity, and the perpetuation of whose memory is a benefaction to the present generation.

THOMAS T. CASWELL,
Pay Director U. S. N.

ANNAPOLIS, June 11th, 1897.

I love to read of those old and almost forgotten forefathers, who so willingly and loyally sacrificed all, even unto their lives, for such a grand and noble country as they have left us.

Let us, and we cannot do anything better than to cherish their memories and perpetuate the institutions they have bequeathed us.

FRANK H. DEANE.

BALTIMORE, June 11th, 1897.

I think you have well established his claim to a place in the Hall of Statues in Washington.

REV. OSBORNE INGLE.
ALL SAINTS' PARISH.

FREDERICK, June 15th, 1897.

In making selection for the statue he has as many claims as any of those I have seen mentioned in the papers.

MARY A. GORTER.

BALTIMORE, June 17th, 1897.

If wisdom in council is equally as meritorious as bravery in battle, John Hanson is undoubtedly entitled to the distinction of commemoration in bronze or marble at the Nation's Capitol.

ALBERT S. J. OWENS.

BALTIMORE, June 26th, 1897.

It would seem that the Commission who are to decide upon whose memory is to be honored by a statue in the National Capitol, could not fail to see what strong claims John Hanson has to the admiration and gratitude of posterity.

B. H. M. RITCHIE.

FREDERICK, July 15th, 1897.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon the fact that John Hanson and Daniel Carroll *maintained* the position Maryland assumed on the Western domain question. How well and how successfully they did

it is known, but how few realize that Maryland was threatened with invasion, partition and the erasure of her name from the roll of States in the effort to move her from the stand she had taken—the stand that made us the United *States*, and not a federation of loosely united Colonies with clashing boundary lines and a *casus belli* forever at our doors. This should call for a statue of itself.

George Washington was the Father of his Country, but John Hanson was one of the founders of the United States, by the grace of God and the voice of Maryland.

ELLA LORAIN DORSEY.

WASHINGTON, July 15th, 1897.